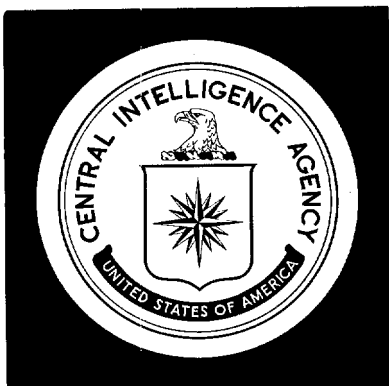


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INDONESIA-CAMBODIA: INDONESIA EVIDENTLY IS EXPLORING CHANGES IN ITS SMALL MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR CAMBODIA.

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[REDACTED] THE INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO PHNOM PENH AND THE CHIEF OF INDONESIA'S MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP THERE RECENTLY TOLD THE US AMBASSADOR THAT DJAKARTA IS CONSIDERING A SMALL 'UNCONVENTIONAL INPUT' TO THE CAMBODIAN WAR EFFORT. THESE REMARKS MAY REFER TO PRIME MINISTER LON NOL'S REPORTED REQUEST THAT INDONESIAN MILITARY ADVISERS BE ASSIGNED TO CAMBODIAN UNITS IN THE FIELD.

THE QUESTION OF MILITARY AID TO CAMBODIA HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT ONE FOR INDONESIA. ON THE ONE HAND, DJAKARTA IS EAGER TO ASSERT ITS INFLUENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND IS GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT COMMUNIST EXPANSION IN CAMBODIA AND ELSEWHERE IN THE REGION. IN ADDITION, SOME INDONESIAN GENERALS BELIEVE THAT AID TO CAMBODIA MIGHT CAUSE THE US TO INCREASE ITS MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO DJAKARTA. OTHER INDONESIAN OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, ARGUE THAT FURTHER AID TO CAMBODIA WOULD PUT INDONESIA FIRMLY IN THE US CAMP AND DAMAGE DJAKARTA'S NONALIGNED CREDENTIALS.

PRESIDENT SUHARTO IS REPORTED TO HAVE STATED LAST DECEMBER THAT INCREASED AID TO PHNOM PENH WOULD BE USELESS UNLESS CAMBODIA ADOPTED INDONESIA'S OWN CONCEPTS OF MOBILE WARFARE.

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[REDACTED] UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT INDONESIA WOULD THINK TWICE BEFORE SENDING MILITARY ADVISERS INTO THE CAMBODIAN COUNTRYSIDE, A STEP THAT COULD NOT LONG BE KEPT SECRET. IT WOULD UNDERMINE DJAKARTA'S PRETENSIONS TO NEUTRALITY AND ITS HOPE OF PLAYING A MEDIATING ROLE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

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